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News from the Center for Jewish Studies at Harvard University
Online at cjs.fas.harvard.edu
WHAT IS THE CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDIES?

The Center for Jewish Studies serves as an umbrella encompassing and coordinating the many academic and extra-curricular programs in Jewish Studies at Harvard University. Faculty, courses and other academic programs at the University are located in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, the Harvard Divinity School, and the Harvard Law School. Our various seminars and lecture series are based in the Mahindra Center for the Humanities, the Center for European Studies, and the Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies. Harvard Law School houses the Julis-Rabinowitz Program in Jewish and Israeli Law which sponsors conferences and lectures in both areas. The Judaica Division of Widener Library boasts one of the world's greatest library collections in Judaic scholarship in the world. Taken together, Harvard offers students and scholars resources in Jewish Studies virtually unparalleled anywhere in the world.
MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

THE FALL 2016 SEMESTER was a very busy one at the Center for Jewish Studies at Harvard. We welcomed two new professors: Derek Penslar, Visiting Professor of History, who will become the William Lee Frost Professor of Modern Jewish History in the Department of History, and Saul Zaritt, Assistant Professor of Yiddish and Modern Jewish Literature in the Departments of Comparative Literature and Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations. You will find more information about our new colleagues inside this newsletter. Both appointments continue the revitalization of Jewish Studies at Harvard, particularly in the modern period. We are delighted to warmly welcome them to our community.

The past semester saw several additional new developments. Perhaps the most dramatic was the formal opening of the Julis-Rabinowitz Program in Jewish and Israeli Law at Harvard Law School, directed by Professor Noah Feldman. The Program was launched on Election Day, 2016, with an exciting symposium attended by a very large audience. In addition, Professor Saul Friedländer, the eminent Holocaust historian, delivered our annual Doft Lecture, and in December, the Center sponsored a symposium commemorating the five-hundredth anniversary of the Venice Ghetto.

This spring semester we have welcomed seven Harry Starr Fellows in Judaica, a semester-long postdoctoral research group that brings scholars from all over the world to Harvard. These scholars share their work with each other and also with the larger Harvard community. This semester's Starr Seminar, led by Professors Shaye Cohen (NELC) and Paul Kosmin (Classics), is devoted to Jews and Judaism in the Greco-Roman world. These weekly seminars have attracted a wide audience from both Jewish Studies and Classics. We are also hosting a Daniel Jeremy Silver Fellow and three additional Visiting Scholars and Fellows. In addition, we are in the midst of renovating room 745 Widen-er Library as a Jewish studies library and study-space for both undergraduate and graduate students. We hope to have an official dedication ceremony next fall. And we are also hosting a student-run conference on “Pluralism, Multilingualism, and Jewish Identities” this March.

All of the Center’s programs, including our regular sponsorship and coordination of courses and research and fellowship programs, are made possible through the support of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences and the Office of the Dean of Arts and Humanities, and especially through the generosity and help of our many donors and Friends. To all of you we again offer our heartfelt gratitude.

David Stern
Harry Starr Professor of Classical and Modern Jewish and Hebrew Literature and Professor of Comparative Literature
It is a pleasure to announce that DEREK J. PENSLAR has joined our faculty in the Department of History. This academic year and next he will be a Visiting Professor of History here at Harvard and, in 2018, Professor Penslar will become our first William Lee Frost Professor of Jewish History. William Lee Frost, Harvard College ’47 and Harvard Graduate School of Public Administration ’58, was President of the Lucius N. Littauer Foundation and a major supporter of the Center for Jewish Studies at Harvard.

Professor Penslar is Harvard’s first professor of modern Jewish History in the Department of History. He earned his B.A. from Stanford University and doctorate from the University of California at Berkeley. Since 1998, Professor Penslar has been the Samuel Zacks Professor of European Jewish History at the University of Toronto. Between 2012 and 2016, he was also the inaugural Stanley Lewis Professor of Modern Israel at Oxford.

Professor Penslar describes his research: “I study Zionism and modern Israel within the contexts of modern European and Middle Eastern history, Jewish history, nationalism and colonialism. This methodology reflects my education as a European historian and three decades of teaching Jewish, European and comparative history as well as Israel Studies at Indiana University, the University of Toronto, Columbia, Oxford and Harvard.”

Derek Penslar’s books include Zionism and Technocracy: The Engineering of Jewish Settlement in Palestine, 1870-1918 (1991, Hebrew version 2001); In Search of Jewish Community: Jewish Identities in Germany and Austria 1918-1933 (1998, co-edited with Michael Brenner); Shylock’s Children: Economics and Jewish Identity in Modern Europe (2001); Orientalism and the Jews (co-edited with Ivan Kalmar, 2004); Contemporary Antisemitism: Canada and the World (2005); Israel in History: The Jewish State in Comparative Perspective.
We are thrilled to welcome SAUL NOAM ZARITT as Assistant Professor of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations and of Comparative Literature. Professor Zaritt earned his Ph.D. from the Jewish Theological Seminary in Jewish Literature and is the founding editor of In Geveb: A Journal of Yiddish Studies. Professor Zaritt's research areas include modern Jewish literatures, Yiddish literature, Hebrew literature, Jewish American literature, theories of world literature, translation and globalization, and digital humanities.

Professor Zaritt studies the intersection of modern Jewish writing and the global literary marketplace. His research maps the ways in which works by Jewish writers traverse political, linguistic, and cultural boundaries, to join transnational networks: the anthologies and canons of world literature, the iterations of international modernism and postmodernism, and global literary economies.

His current projects include, “Maybe for Millions, Maybe for Nobody: Jewish American Writing and the Problem of World Literature.” This project tracks the ways in which works by Jewish American writers, with a particular emphasis on those who write in Yiddish, join transnational networks: the anthologies and canons of world literature, the iterations of international modernism and postmodernism, and global literary economies.

“I focus on the intersecting questions of translatability, untranslatability, circulation, erasure, and afterlife, as part of an attempt to rethink conceptualizations of modern Jewish writing...”

—Saul Zaritt

DIANA MARGINEAN SCHOR

It is a pleasure to introduce our Office Assistant, DIANA MARGINEAN SCHOR, and to formally welcome her to the Center for Jewish Studies.

We are very fortunate to have Diana’s help around the office on a part-time basis. This year she has provided important help to the office in a number of areas, including events planning, proofreading and organizing. She has already come up with some terrific new ideas to improve some of our procedures. She has done administrative work previously for organizations such as the World Bank. Diana’s expertise in administration and academia and her proofreading skills have been tremendous assets, as well as her exceptional warmth and professionalism. In addition to her superlative administrative skills, Diana has a Ph.D. in Sociology from Brandeis University. She is Assistant Professor of Sociology at Gordon College and has taught at Brandeis and Tufts Universities. We are thrilled to have Diana join our team.

ELENA HOFFENBERG CONDUCTS RESEARCH ON HISTORY OF THE CENTER AND OF THE FRIENDS OF THE CJS

We are excited to announce that recent Harvard graduate, ELENA HOFFENBERG ‘16, is joining our Center to work on a research project focused on the history of the Center for Jewish Studies and of the Friends of the Center for Jewish Studies. The Friends group consists of donors who have given annually to the Friends of the Center for Jewish Studies Fund, which was established in 1985. This exciting new research project will document the founding of the Center and its history since 1978. It will also include an oral history component on Jewish studies and Jewish life at Harvard.

Elena is currently working at the Jewish Women’s Archive in Brookline, MA. During her time as an undergraduate at Harvard, Elena was a joint concentrator in the Departments of History and Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations. Her senior thesis, completed in both departments, was entitled, “Black Harlem, Jewish Harlem: The Politics of Race, Religion and Language in New York City, 1919-1943.” The Center for Jewish Studies awarded Elena summer research and study fellowships that enabled her to participate in the Helix Project in Belarus, Poland and Lithuania in 2014, where she also studied Jewish history and culture. The following summer, Elena studied and conducted research at the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research in New York. While at Harvard, Elena also worked for three years in the Judaica Division at Widener Library, and helped process the archives of the Yiddish poet, Leyzer Ran, and catalogue a collection of photographs. In summer 2016, Elena participated in an internship program at the Library of Congress in Washington D.C., where she catalogued 18th and 19th century Yiddish and Hebrew texts.

Elena has just begun interviewing people who were involved with the Center for Jewish Studies in its early years. She recently interviewed Professor of Economics Emeritus (and former Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences and Acting President of Harvard in 1984 and 1987) Henry Rosovsky and his wife, Nitza Rosovsky, the author of *The Jewish Experience at Harvard and Radcliffe: An Introduction to an Exhibition Presented by the Harvard Semitic Museum on the Occasion of Harvard’s 350th Anniversary, September 1986*, distributed by Harvard University Press. Elena is very interested in hearing from other people willing to grant her an interview. If you wish to participate, please contact Elena through our office at cjs@fas.harvard.edu.
JULY 26-31, 2016

Compagnia De’Colombari production of
THE MERCHANT OF VENICE

Compagnia De’Colombari, a New York-based international collective of performing artists, launched the first-ever production of The Merchant of Venice in the newly revitalized “Jewish Ghetto” in Venice. This event marked the 500th anniversary of the formation of the Jewish Ghetto and the 400th anniversary of William Shakespeare’s death. The event was co-sponsored by various partners, including the Center for Jewish Studies.

Jeannette and Ludwig Goldschmidt Bequest for the Benefit of the Center for Jewish Studies

SEPTEMBER 8, 2016

Jewish Revolutionaries in Exile

MICHAEL MILLER
Director of the Nationalism Studies Program, Central European University, Budapest

Estelle and Howard Rubin Fund with the Jews in Modern Europe Study Group, the Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies

SEPTEMBER 19, 2016

An Orthodox Rabbi Responds to the Balfour Declaration: Rabbi Haim Hirschenson on Jewish Law and Democracy

DAVID ELLENSON
Director of the Schusterman Center for Israel Studies, Brandeis University and former President of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion

Robert and Florence Dreben Lecture and Publication Fund with the Julis-Rabinowitz Program on Jewish and Israeli Law, Harvard Law School

SEPTEMBER 27, 2016

Bone, Stone and Text: Commemoration of the Black Death among Iberian Jews

SUSAN EINBINDER
Professor of Hebrew and Judaic Studies & Comparative Literature, The University of Connecticut

Inaugural lecture on Medieval Jewish History and Culture

William Landau Lecture and Publication Fund with the Committee on Medieval Studies
OCTOBER 5, 2016
The Invention and Inversion of the German National Landscape by Jewish Filmmakers, 1918-1968

OFER ASHKENAZI
Faculty, History Department, Hebrew University; Chairman, Richard Koebner Minerva Center for German History

William Landau Lecture and Publication Fund with the Jewish in Modern Europe Study Group, the Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies, and the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures

OCTOBER 20, 2016
Imagination, Theolatry, and the Compulsion to Worship the Invisible

ELLIOT WOLFSON
Department of Religious Studies, University of California Santa Barbara, Gerard Weinstock Visiting Professor in Jewish Studies, Harvard University (Fall 2016)

Gerard Weinstock Visiting Professor in Jewish Studies with Committee on the Study of Religion, Harvard Divinity School, and the Jewish Societies and Cultures Seminar at the Mahindra Humanities Center

NOVEMBER 10, 2016
From Newsreel to Posttraumatic Films – Classic Documentary Films about Auschwitz-Birkenau

TOMASZ LYSAK
Fullbright Visiting Lecturer of Polish Studies, University of Washington, Seattle; Assistant Professor, University of Warsaw, Poland

Leon I. Mirell Lecture Fund with the Jews in Modern Europe Study Group, the Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies

NOVEMBER 11, 2016
Girl – My Childhood and the Second World War

ALONA FRANKEL
An iconic picturebook writer/illustrator (Once Upon a Potty and many other titles), now publishing her first, extraordinary memoir, aimed at teens and adult readers.

Harry Edison Fund with the Consulate General of Israel to New England and Child Matters Media

NOVEMBER 16, 2016
Yiddish, Translation, and a World Literature To-Come

SAUL NOAM ZARITT
Assistant Professor of Yiddish Literature in the Departments of Comparative Literature and Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, Harvard University

Abraham and Rachel Bornstein Fund with the Jacob and Frieda Pat Endowment in the Harvard College Library, Judaica Division

NOVEMBER 17, 2016
Italian Baroque Music from the Jewish Ghetto

NICHOLAS MCGEGAN
Conductor, music director of Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra, Principal Guest Conductor of the Pasadena Symphony and Christoph Wolff Distinguished Visiting Scholar, Harvard University Department of Music

Music of Salamone Rossi with commentary by scholar Francesco Spagnolo, Sherezade Panthaki, soprano, singers from the Yale Institute of Sacred Music, and instrumentalists from Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra.

Harvard University Department of Music
NOVEMBER 18, 2016

Biblical Narratives and Other Stories

ADI NES

One of Israel’s most prominent photographers. His works have been presented in numerous solo and group exhibitions in Israel and abroad, achieving great recognition and success.

Harry Elson Lecture and Publication Fund with the Consulate General of Israel to New England

NOVEMBER 18-19, 2016

The Harvard Colloquium for Intellectual History: ADORNO’S NEGATIVE DIALECTICS AT 50: AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

The Harvard Colloquium for Intellectual History and its sponsors present an international conference at Harvard University to commemorate the semi-centennial of Adorno’s magnum opus in Philosophy and Social Theory.

Yanoff-Taylor Lecture and Publication Fund with the Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies, Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, Department of Government, Department of History, the John F. Kennedy Memorial Policy Fellowship, Department of Philosophy, and Provostial Fund for the Arts and Humanities

DECEMBER 1, 2016

Where Memory Leads: A Holocaust Scholar Looks Back

SAUL FRIEDLÄNDER in conversation with PROFESSOR PETER E. GORDON

Professor of History Emeritus, UCLA

Saul Friedländer is the eminent historian of Nazi Germany and the Holocaust.

Alan and Elisabeth Doft Lecture and Publication Fund with the Harvard Colloquium for Intellectual History

DECEMBER 5, 2016

THE 500TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VENICE GHETTO CONFERENCE

[See page 13 for photos]

Speakers:

SHAUL BASSI, Ca’ Forscari University of Venice

BENJAMIN RAVID, Brandeis University

OLGA LITVAK, Clark University

JAY M. HARRIS, Harvard University

Keynote speaker:

MITCHELL DUNEIER, Princeton University

Alan M. and Katherine W. Stroock Fund for Innovative Research in Judaica
9.12.2016 HAPPY RETIREMENT
WE’LL MISS YOU, PETER MACHINIST...

photos by Marcus Halevi

JON LEVENSON

PETER MACHINIST

ALICE AND PETER MACHINIST

JACOB OLUPONA, DEAN HEMPTON, ANN BRAUDE, AND KIMBERLY PATTON

JOE GREENE

HECTOR AVALOS

PIOTR STEINKELLER

JAY HARRIS

LECTURES & EVENTS

8 CJS NEWS Fall Review 2016
Those pursuing Jewish studies at Harvard University may benefit from a number of funds established over the years. New funds are formed continuously; the following funds are currently supporting students and scholars in their pursuit for greater knowledge and achievement in this field. These also may support publications and events at the Center for Jewish Studies. For further information on establishing a named fund, or contributing to one, go to cjs.fas.harvard.edu.

NAMED STUDENT FELLOWSHIPS AND PRIZES IN JEWISH STUDIES

Mandell L. Berman Fellowship
Barney and Essie Cantor Scholarship Fund
Harry Edison Fund
Anna Marnoy Feldberg Financial Aid Fund
Leo Flax Fellowship
Goldhirsh-Yellin Foundation Fund for Undergraduate and Graduate Travel to Israel
Hertog Undergraduate Study Abroad Fund
Edward H. Kavinoky Fellowship
Barney and Anne B. Malloy Memorial Fund
Raphael and Deborah Melamed Fellowship in Jewish Studies
Aaron and Clara Rabinowitz Trust Fellowship
Lewis and Alice Schimberg Graduate Student Fellowship Fund
Barry Shrage Travel and Research Fund for Jewish Studies
Sidney L. Solomon Fellowship
Sosland Family Fellowship
Harry and Cecile Starr Prizes in Jewish Studies
Alan M. and Katherine W. Stroock Family Fellowship for Advanced Research in Judaica Studies
Isadore Twersky Fellowship

NAMED TEACHING AND RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

Morris and Beverly Baker Foundation Yiddish Language Instruction Fund
Joseph Engel Fund
Suzanne and Dr. Lawrence Fishman Fellowship Fund
Freed Research Fund in the Center for Jewish Studies
Isaac-Melech, Icla and Zelma Rykles Memorial Fund
Edwin Lichtig, Jr. Research and Teaching Fund
Joseph Morton Miller Endowed Fund for Yiddish Studies

Rohr Visiting Professorship in Modern Israel Studies
Daniel Jeremy Silver Fellowship
Harry Starr Fellows in Judaica Fund
Harry Starr Teaching and Research Fund
Alan M. Stroock Fund for Advanced Research in Judaica
Alan M. and Katherine W. Stroock Fund for Innovative Research in Judaica
Selma and Lewis H. Weinstein Fund for Jewish Studies
Gerard Weinstock Visiting Professorship

NAMED LECTURE AND PUBLICATION FUNDS

Yigal Allon Memorial Fund
Abraham and Rachel Bornstein Fund
Alan and Elisabeth Doft Lecture and Publication Fund
Robert and Florence Dreben Lecture and Publication Fund
Harry Elson Lecture and Publication Fund
William Landau Lecture and Publication Fund
Leon I. Mirell Lecture Fund
Estelle and Howard Rubin Fund
Martin D. and Helen B. Schwartz Lecture Fund
Harry A. Wolfson Publication Fund
Yanoff-Taylor Lecture and Publication Fund

OTHER NAMED FUNDS

Center for Jewish Studies Fund
Suzanne R. and Dr. Lawrence M. Fishman Endowed Fund for Jewish Studies
Friends of the Center for Jewish Studies
Josephine and Martin Gang Memorial Fund
Jeanette and Ludwig Goldschmidt Bequest for the Benefit of the Center for Jewish Studies
Judith and David Lobel Fund for the Center for Jewish Studies
BECOME A FRIEND
In December 1984, Peter Solomon (AB ’60, MBA ’63) announced the establishment of the Friends of the Center for Jewish Studies. The Friends of CJS seeks to provide an ongoing base of support for the Center and to enable it to expand its present areas of activity. Annual support from the Friends helps shape the future of Jewish Studies and sustains the Center as an influential, multifaceted enterprise at Harvard.

You are invited

Show your interest in Jewish Studies at Harvard by joining the Friends of the Center for Jewish Studies in one of four categories listed in the box above. Friends receive invitations to lectures, symposia and colloquia, copies of the newsletter, and selected publications published by the Center.

If you know anyone who might be interested in joining the Friends, please notify the Center at (617-495-4326) or cjs@fas.harvard.edu, so that we may contact and acquaint them with the Center's mission.

Some of the projects sponsored by the Friends include:

- student research projects (both undergraduate and graduate, school year and summer);
- graduate student fellowships;
- research-related expenses for visiting scholars;
- public lectures and class presentations by distinguished scholars;
- student discussions at the Jewish Studies Reading Group;
- doctoral dissertation advising by specialized scholars from outside Harvard;
- group discussions of research in progress for faculty and students in Jewish studies at the Harvard Jewish Studies Workshop.

FRIENDS OF THE CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDIES

HOW TO GIVE

Online: To make a gift by credit card to the Friends of the Center for Jewish Studies at Harvard University, please click HERE (https://community.alumni.harvard.edu/give/16040850) for Harvard University’s online giving form and follow the instructions.

Click on “Select a School/Affiliate” and scroll to UNIVERSITY from the dropdown list. Then under “Select a Fund,” choose OTHER-Harvard University. Under “Gift details,” enter Friends of the Center for Jewish Studies (or the name of another fund of your choice), Center for Jewish Studies.

Gifts by Check May Be Mailed To:

Center for Jewish Studies, Harvard University
6 Divinity Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02138

Please make checks payable to “The President and Fellows of Harvard College” and include a note in the memo line of the check that this is for the “Friends of the Center for Jewish Studies” (or the name of the other fund of your choice).
The Harvard Judaica Collection collects much more than books, pamphlets, periodicals, audio and video recordings and digital photographs... it also collects ephemera: posters, leaflets, flyers, and broadsides of Jewish content from Israel and all over the world. The following is an example of just one of the rich collections of ephemeral materials in the Judaica Collection: ephemera from the 2015 Israeli election.

How so?

Ephemera is authentic because it is material that is produced for a specific moment and for a specific audience, here the 2015 Israeli election. It is not a distillation by a commentator or by another scholar, thus enabling a scholar to put a finger on the pulse of the people participating in that event. It is true primary source material.

Once that moment (in this instance, the election) has passed, the item has outlived its usefulness—except for the scholar, for whom it is the DNA of research, the building blocks of scholarship.

Why unique?

Because ephemera has a temporary purpose—in this case the 2015 Israeli election—and was never intended to be preserved for posterity, very few copies survive the event. Someone receiving a flyer as a handout will generally discard it. If it arrives in the mail, it is “junk mail” and thrown out. Of the 25 parties and lists competing in the 2015 Israeli election, only two maintain formal institutional archives and their party’s election ephemera may or may not make its way there. The day after the election, most of the election ephemera lands in the trash. Thus, little of this material survives and what does survive is only by chance.

At the same time, it is extremely difficult to collect during the election season. There is no central distribution point for all the material, and even trying to obtain it from each party is a challenge. Nevertheless, the Harvard Judaica Division has—from the 1977 Israeli election to the present—met this challenge and has succeeded in collecting in real time a “critical mass” of many thousands of Israeli election ephemera from every Israeli national and municipal election: broadsides, flyers, leaflets, posters, banners, bumper-stickers, DVDs, t-shirts, hats, and a variety of other election memorabilia.

The Judaica Division makes this extraordinary resource available to the Harvard and global scholarly community by digitizing material and putting it online through the Harvard Library’s Visual Information Access online catalog (via.harvard.edu).

This serves to bring awareness of the Harvard Library’s Israeli election ephemera to scholars at Harvard and to others everywhere and to encourage use of this unique resource.

In addition to Israeli election ephemera, the Judaica Collection includes ephemera dealing with all aspects of Israel— theater, music, dance, art, religious life, commercial advertisements, politics, etc. The Judaica ephemera collection also includes ephemera related to Jewish life throughout the world, both contemporary and historical. Some 300,000 items of Judaica ephemera are available online at via.harvard.edu.

For more information, please contact the Harvard Judaica Division:
Tel: 617-495-2985 Email: juddiv@fas.harvard.edu
Widener Library, Room M, Harvard Library
12.5.2016
500TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VENICE GHETTO CONFERENCE

photos by Marcus Halevi

MICHAEL LESLEY

MITCHELL DUNEIER

DAVID STERN

BENJAMIN RAVID

SHAUL BASSI

SHAYE COHEN

KHALIL MUHAMMAD, MITCHELL DUNEIER, AND GARY KING

NANCY KO
The generous funding received from the Center for Jewish Studies and the Barney and Anne B. Malloy Memorial Fund supported my continued Arabic studies this past summer in Tel Aviv, Israel. This trip allowed me to experience Arabic as a living language, as it is spoken today in the contemporary Israeli society. Being able to travel, engaging in conversations, and reading newspapers, enabled me to further improve my academic skillset and increase my deep understanding of Israel and its citizens. Arabic continued to be an important part of my academic studies upon my return to Harvard. In the fall semester, this additional language exposure to Arabic allowed me to engage more deeply in courses on Classical Arabic Philosophy. I could not have had this unique experience without the generous support of the Center for Jewish Studies and the Malloy fund!

—Jacob Abolafia
Ph.D. candidate, Government

I am deeply grateful for the financial support provided by the Center for Jewish Studies and the Anna Marnoy Feldberg Financial Aid Fund for summer 2016. This grant made it possible for me to attend an intensive Yiddish summer course. I attended the advanced level classes, co-taught by Khayele Beer (University College London) and Sonia Pinkusowitz (Université Libre de Bruxelles), both of whom are highly regarded scholars in the field of Yiddish studies and native speakers of Yiddish. Dr. Beer’s class focused on the literary history of interwar Yiddish Warsaw, allowing us to catch a glimpse of the broad range and unbridled creativity of this golden age of Yiddish literature. Dr. Pinkusowitz’s class focused on questions of storytelling and orality in modern Yiddish short stories. This included a particular focus on Sholem Aleichem, whose literary and linguistic complexity is always both daunting and exhilarating.

The Yiddish summer course was organized by the Jewish Music Institute, based at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, Great Britain. Music and singing were a key component of the program, with daily Yiddish singing workshops led by outstanding international Yiddish singers. The course also offered a Yiddish film series curated by expert cinephile, Barry Davis and a series of talks by international scholars about Yiddish literature and culture. I was delighted to contribute a short presentation in Yiddish about a little-known theater play by Leyb Malakh, the intriguing “Mississippi.” My presentation was based on an English-language conference paper on the same topic, which I had presented at the “Literary Diasporas in Ashkenaz” conference in Paris earlier this summer (see photo).

—Raphael Koenig
Ph.D. candidate, Comparative Literature

“It was a wonderful experience to study under the expert guidance of these dedicated, experienced, and incredibly knowledgeable professors.”

—Raphael Koenig
I would like to express my gratitude for the very generous support of the Center for Jewish Studies and the Barney and Anne B. Malloy Memorial Fund. This financial support made it possible for me to conduct dissertation research and pursue linguistic interests in Israel and Spain in the summer of 2016.

In Israel, I continued to study Modern Hebrew language at the Polis Institute in Jerusalem. Here I consulted local experts, such as Professors Stroumsa and Ravitsky, on the study of Judeo-Arabic philosophical texts. I visited a number of manuscript collections and historical sites, such as the National Library of Israel in Jerusalem; the Roman aqueduct at Caesarea; and the Avraham Avinu synagogue in Hebron.

During my time in Spain and a three-day stopover in Italy, I visited several manuscript collections. I also consulted annotated Biblical and scientific manuscripts of Iberian origin at: Archivo della Badia in Montecassino; Judeo-Arabica at the Real Biblioteca del Monasterio de El Escorial and the Real Academia de la Historia (Madrid); Arxiu Seu D’Urgell and Archivo de la Corona de Aragón (Catalunya); and the Archivo de la Catedral (León.)

Between November and December 2016, I returned to Madrid to visit the Escorial once again and to present results on the above research. I was thankful for feedback from experts in the history of philosophy (Jewish, Aristotelian, Iberian), Judeo-Arabica, and Arabic Bible. Presently, I am incorporating research and also completing revisions of my dissertation.

My progress in writing, research, and linguistic training, and my invaluable direct contact with living authorities and historical sources, were only possible because of the generosity of the Malloy Fund and the support of the Center for Jewish Studies. I would like to thank the Malloy family directly for their remarkable support. I look forward to sharing with students, readers, and loved ones, all about the ancient images, personal connections and memories, and extensive textual learning that I was fortunate to experience this past summer.

—David K. Owen
Ph.D. candidate, Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations

Summer 2016 was extremely productive and occasionally adventurous! I spent my summer months mostly in Berlin, where I continued my German studies at the Goethe-Institut. Studying twentieth century German philosophy offers important contributions to the theory section of my dissertation, which compares the paired figures of the Spanish Jew and the Spanish Muslim in modern Western (or Christian) thought. Mastering German is essential to my work. It was also important to my research to be able to travel extensively within Germany. While based in Berlin, I was able to travel to Spain and Morocco to visit their national libraries and to consult archives relevant to my research. The information I gleaned contributed specifically to the historical section of my dissertation. There is no substitute, of course, for actually reading these documents in hard copy, in their original setting. The generosity of the Center for Jewish Studies and the Barney and Anne B. Malloy Memorial Fund has made my work possible!

—Joshua Cohen
Ph.D. candidate, Committee on the Study of Religion

“There is no substitute for actually reading these documents in their original setting.”
—Joshua Cohen

David K. Owen, pictured here with his son, Arturo, at the Biblical Zoo in Israel.
"I studied about philological, linguistic contents (introductory Sogdian in particular) and learned to read Syriac handwritings."

—Zhan Chen

It is with gratitude that I acknowledge the generous support of the Barney and Anne B. Malloy Memorial Fund for supporting my Biblical Hebrew studies in the summer of 2016. The fellowship allowed me to complete an intensive language course at the intermediate level at Harvard Divinity School’s summer language program. This course increased my competence in reading Biblical Hebrew, which is essential to my doctoral research in the Department of Comparative Literature. My dissertation traces the influence of biblical parallelism on modern European poetics and also requires me to read major translations of the Bible from the late 18th to the early 20th centuries. (Such translations include the work of Robert Lowth, Moses Medelssohn, Johann Gottfried Herder, Gerald Manley Hopkins, Franz Rosenzweig and Martin Buber). I am particularly grateful to Eric Jarrard, a teaching fellow of the intermediate Hebrew class at the Divinity School, who guided me with much patience through the Books of Ruth, Esther, and Jonah. I hope that I will be able to continue my dissertation research in Europe with additional support, particularly as I continue to improve my reading knowledge of Hebrew and critically engage with the decisions made by translators whose work is central to mine.

—Márton Farkas

Ph.D. candidate, Comparative Literature

"The fellowship allowed me to complete an intensive language course at Harvard Divinity School’s summer program."

—Márton Farkas
SENIOR NANCY KO WINS A RHODES SCHOLARSHIP

From the Harvard Gazette, November 22, 2016
“Joining the ranks of Rhodes: Realizing dreams, Harvard's newest scholars unveil plans for Oxford years” by Peter Reuell and Stephanie Kacoyanis, Harvard Staff Writers

The Gazette interviewed [Nancy] about how she plan[s] to spend [her] Oxford year:

Nancy Ko: “The world has always been paradoxical”

To NANCY KO, history means more than studying the past. It's a tool that can be used to fight bigotry.

“I truly believe studying history has the potential to unfix our notions of the present and expand ideas of what can be made possible,” she explains. “Especially now, when we’re seeing the politics of despair everywhere in the world, I hope to show through my research that the world has always been paradoxical and complicated, and that it is possible to build bridges.”

Ko, a resident of Kirkland House and a joint concentrator in History and Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, will focus on Jewish history and modern Middle Eastern studies.

“As a Korean-American, there's always this question of why you, why Jewish studies?” Ko said. “But growing up in one of the only Asian families in a predominantly Jewish Brooklyn neighborhood helped me identify with Jewish culture because, in that tradition, there is an awareness of what it is like to be the ‘other.’”

Indeed, sitting behind the counter at her parents' grocery store in Brooklyn planted the seeds not only of Ko's love of history, but also a passion for debate. A member of the Harvard Political Union and former chair of Student Discussion, she is hoping to participate in debates at the Oxford Union.

“I grew up in an environment where intellectual discourse was valued. I’d hear it in my parents’ store all the time. One thing I think Harvard and Oxford have in common is they both have a long tradition of intellectual debate.”

For now, Ko is letting it all sink in. “Mostly I feel deeply humbled. Looking at the company I’m in—not just the scholars-elect, but the other finalists—I feel so humbled and inspired. The Rhodes Trust made an investment in us as scholars to fight the world's fight. It'll be a long fight, but I'm revved up.”

“I hope to show through my research that the world has always been paradoxical and complicated, and that it is possible to build bridges.”

—Nancy Ko

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INTERVIEW: TAL GREBEL
Ph.D. candidate, Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations

“My inspiration comes from my family. My parents, both scientists, taught me to always follow my passion and to do what I love.”
—Tal Grebel

Where did you grow up?

Growing up in northern New Jersey, my house became a space that contained both elements of the Israeli home from where my parents came, and of the American culture that surrounded us. Both Eastern and Western cultures entered my New Jersey reality, each at different points. Weekends were holy, not just because my father would sometimes go to synagogue, but also because each weekend the whole family would sit and listen to NPR. Programming such as “Car Talk”, “Wait Wait Don’t Tell Me”, and “Prairie Home Companion” were (and remain), particular favorites. I learned to sing “Hatikvah” (the Israeli national anthem) as I memorized the Declaration of Independence to declaim at a Forensics competition. I would laugh at skits put on by the Gashashim (an Israeli comedy troupe), and later listen to the decidedly English Dire Straits and Procol Harem. Because of the huge role that both cultures played in my upbringing, it’s difficult to say I was “only” raised in Livingston, New Jersey.

Livingston, NJ has about 30,000 residents, many of whom commute to work in New York. The town is typical of New Jersey suburbia, with a high percentage of Jews living within its borders (at the moment, it has a 50% Jewish population, and six synagogues). My favorite place there was the town library—you could say it was my home away from home, a space where I could remain for hours, discovering a variety of worlds through reading.

Where did you study before coming to Harvard?

Before coming to Harvard I studied in Europe, completing a double Masters in History. For the first degree of that dual diploma I studied in Paris at the Ecole des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (EHESS). In my second year, I studied at Heidelberg Universität in Heidelberg, Germany. I was often the only American in French and German classes. It was a challenge to let go of my American training and to look at the world as perceived by the other European students. I very much appreciated this challenge, since it afforded me the opportunity to become part of the European society. In particular, writing my thesis in French and German forced me to retrain how I looked at sources and research so that I could succeed in a language not my own.

Fabulous European professors, such as Michael Werner, provided significant assistance to my studies. I was also inspired by professors whom I’ve never met in person, who had walked the halls of the EHESS and Heidelberg U. in the past, such as: Pierre Nora, Pierre Bourdieu, and Jacques Derrida at EHESS, or Karl Jaspers, Hegel, Gadamer, and Habermas at Heidelberg University. I will never forget the community (both real and inspirational) that supported me during my time in Europe.

How did you become interested in Jewish studies?

My inspiration comes from my family. My parents, both scientists, taught me to always follow my passion and to do what I love. I am especially proud of my grandmother, a high school history teacher in Tel Aviv. At a time when many women did not even have a high school degree, she went back to school to earn her Master’s degree at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.
Throughout my childhood, my family has played with the use and meaning of Hebrew words. My mom and dad in particular love to find the origin of Hebrew words, especially when they encounter biblical terms at the synagogue or in the newspaper. As an historian, I don’t focus my research on language/literature per se. My parents’ passion for the Hebrew language, however, influenced my interest in Jewish Studies.

Hebrew words and various biblical stories were present throughout my childhood. I have not received a yeshiva education, so I pursued my interest in Jewish history and its people mostly as a hobby. I also attended Sunday School through high school, and minored in Jewish Studies as an undergraduate student at Rutgers University. In college, I was curious to learn more about the Jewish people, and the lives that they led throughout time.

It was during my time as a Masters student in Europe that I decided to pursue a Ph.D. in Jewish Studies. Presently, my dissertation topic is focused on Jewish philanthropies at the turn of the 20th century.

What has been enjoyable or beneficial to you during your time at Harvard (within or outside of your academic endeavors)?

Two things have enriched my experience at Harvard: its libraries, and people I have met here.

The libraries’ impact generally speaks for itself. They truly are my home(s) away from home, places where I spend the majority of my time. The Judaica collection at Harvard is particularly astounding—any book I have ever needed I have found at Harvard. When a book isn’t available, the Judaica staff (headed by Charles Berlin) does their utmost to procure it. For example, I needed a rare pamphlet from the early 20th century that was only to be found at a German library which would not respond to my repeated emails. The Harvard Judaica staff not only procured the pamphlet for me, but also made sure to contact me immediately to let me know when it arrived. The staff care for the students they help.

In addition, the friends I have made here at Harvard are genuinely astounding people who constantly impress me with their kindness, compassion, and intelligence. The hours I spent with them hiking, drinking tea, or simply going to a museum, are some of my most treasured moments here at Harvard.

What do you hope to do after you graduate?

I would love to become a university professor of Jewish history after I graduate. Ideally, I would continue my interdisciplinary research that touches on various aspects of history and the role of Jews.

Any other details about your life outside your academic program such as activities, special interests, or your background that you wish to share?

I run the Jewish Studies Reading Group and am also a Dudley Arts Fellow. If any Harvard graduate student would like to participate in conversations about Jewish Studies, or is interested in cultural or artistic events, please feel free to contact me or the CJS office.

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JEWISH STUDIES READING GROUP

The Jewish Studies Reading Group at Harvard builds conversation about research in Jewish Studies that crosses interdisciplinary boundaries. By deeply looking at authors’ questions, this group hopes to overcome traditional disciplinary boundaries of methodology and subject choice.

No specialty or prior knowledge of Jewish history is required for students to join. Harvard students interested in any aspect of Jewish history, literature, or culture are more than welcome to attend. Indeed, while this group’s discussion relates to Jewish Studies, opinions and research from any field are gladly invited!

—Tal Grebel

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JEWISH STUDIES READING GROUP (L-R): CAROLINE KAHLENBERG, NANCY KO, TUO LIU, DANIELLE DE FEO-GIET, HUBERT REMILLARD, TAL GREBEL, JOHN HAYASHI
The 2016-2017 academic year was a productive one for the Harvard Jewish Studies Workshop. We began the year with a joint event with the Harvard Hebrew Bible Workshop, cosponsoring a talk by Prof. Mark Leuchter of Temple University. Our subsequent sessions featured doctoral students from four different institutions: Harvard, McGill, Brandeis, and Brown. We heard presentations on a diverse array of topics in Jewish studies, including Nathan Alterman and Zionist political theology, the relationship between Polish Jewry and the police, spirit language in the Hebrew Bible, and ancient Jewish influence on the Gospel of John.

—Rafi Stern and Ethan Schwartz
JEWSH STUDIES COURSES 2016-17

GENERAL EDUCATION/INTRODUCTORY CLASSES
Culture and Belief 23. From the Hebrew Bible to Judaism, From the Old Testament to Christianity
Culture and Belief 39. The Hebrew Bible
Societies of the World 35. Conditional Equality: The Case of the Jews of Europe in Modern Times
Humanities 10A. A Humanities Colloquium: From Homer to Garcia Marquez

FRESHMAN SEMINARS
Freshman Seminar 60Y. Great Books of Judaism

BIBLICAL/ANCIENT NEAR EAST
Ancient Near East 120A. Introduction to the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament 1: Pentateuch and Former Prophets
Ancient Near East 120B. Introduction to the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament 2: Latter Prophets and Writings
Ancient Near East 145. Poetry in the Hebrew Bible and the Ancient Near East
Ancient Near East 210. Textual Criticism of the Hebrew Bible: Seminar
Comparative Literature 259. The Bible as a Book (Graduate Seminar in General Education)
Hebrew 141. Ancient Dream Interpretation: The Hebrew Bible and Mesopotamia
Hebrew 236. The Song at the Sea: Seminar
Semitic Philology 151. Introduction to Northwest Semitic Epigraphy
Semitic Philology 220R. Northwest Semitic Epigraphy: Seminar

JEWSH LITERATURE, HISTORY AND CULTURE
History 13H. Jewish Identity in the Modern World
History 100B. The State of Israel in Comparative Perspective
Comparative Literature 179. Ghostwriters and Ventriloquist: Postwar Jewish American Culture
Expository Writing 20 245. Expository Writing 20
Religion 1426. Apocalyptic Literature of the Second Temple Period
Jewish Studies 207. Rewriting Scripture in Jewish Antiquity: Seminar
Hebrew 235. The Binding of Isaac (Aqedah): Seminar
Jewish Studies 299. Special Topics in Jewish Studies
Modern Hebrew 241R. Advanced Seminar in Modern Hebrew: Israeli Culture: Cinema & Literature
Comparative Literature 178. Writing Jewish Modernity
Yiddish 155. The Yiddish Short Story: Folk Tales, Monologues, and Post-Apocalyptic Parables

RELIGION
Religion 1212A. Judaism: The Liturgical Year
Religion 1212B. Judaism: The Liturgical Year
Jewish Studies 111. Modern Jewish Thought Seminar: Messianic Eschatology and Apocalyptic Time from Cohen to Levinas
Jewish Studies 151. Introduction to Jewish Mysticism
Religion 1529. The Holocaust and the Churches, 1933-45

CLASSICAL AND MODERN HEBREW LANGUAGE COURSES
Classical Hebrew AA. Elementary Classical Hebrew
Classical Hebrew AB. Elementary Classical Hebrew
Classical Hebrew 120A. Intermediate Classical Hebrew I
Classical Hebrew 120B. Intermediate Classical Hebrew II
Classical Hebrew 130AR. Rapid Reading Classical Hebrew I
Classical Hebrew 130BR. Rapid Reading Classical Hebrew II
Modern Hebrew BA. Elementary Modern Hebrew
Modern Hebrew BB. Elementary Modern Hebrew
Modern Hebrew 120A. Intermediate Modern Hebrew I
Modern Hebrew 120B. Intermediate Modern Hebrew II
Modern Hebrew 130A. Advanced Modern Hebrew I
Modern Hebrew 130B. Advanced Modern Hebrew II

YIDDISH COURSES
Yiddish AA. Elementary Yiddish
Yiddish AB. Elementary Yiddish
Yiddish BA. Intermediate Yiddish I
Yiddish BB. Intermediate Yiddish II
Yiddish CA. Advanced Yiddish I
Yiddish CB. Advanced Yiddish II

HARVARD LAW SCHOOL
Advanced Topics in Jewish Law and Legal Theory

ADDITIONAL COURSES RELEVANT TO JEWISH STUDIES
Ancient Near East 103. Ancient Lives
Government 94OF. Law and Politics in Multicultural Democracies
Romance Studies 148. Love, Knowledge and Debate in the Middle Ages: The Roman de la Rose and Libro de Buen Amor
Medieval Studies 250. At Cross Purposes: The Crusades in Material Culture
Religion 1519. American Religious History since 1865
Religion 1434. History of Western Christianity, 150-1100
Religion 1437. History of Western Christianity, 1100-1500
CJS Goes Green!

If you would prefer to receive electronic copies of our newsletter, please email: cjs@fas.harvard.edu

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